

SUGGESTED REMARKS
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USAID/Manila
CEO Forum
Public-Private Sector Partnerships:
Improving the Lives of Women and Children
February 8, 2006, 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Manila A Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel

<Acknowledgements> (final list will be
supplied by JHPIEGO/US-ASEAN rep)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
it is an honor be with you here today to
discuss a common cause - that of improving
the lives of mothers and children in the
Philippines.

Since the early 60s - U. S. Government
Assistance to the Philippines has focused on
the health sector. USAID's current
objective is to help Filipinos achieve their
desired family size and improved health in a
sustainable manner. To accomplish this,

USAID assistance in health programs in the Philippines includes: strengthening Local Government Units' provision and management of family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS services, along with other emerging infectious diseases such as Avian Flu; expanding provision of quality services and products by private and commercial providers, increasing access to family planning and other health services and products through public information and enhanced provider skills; and improving the policy environment for the financing and provision of health services.

In the past, USAID channeled much of its assistance through the public sector. While we have observed improvements in health indicators, sustaining earlier gains is

difficult with scarce public sector resources. We commend the Government of the Philippines for encouraging the private sector to share the responsibility of improving access to health services and products. However, while the Philippines has a vibrant private sector, its potential has not yet been maximized.

USAID has been working with the Philippine private sector as an equal partner in development. And this is a growing trend in USAID Missions worldwide. I would like to share with you exciting developments in USAID's support to developing public-private alliances. One of the key pillars of USAID development is the fostering of Global Development Alliances, or GDA. GDA links U.S. foreign assistance with the resources, expertise, and creativity of the private

firms and non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, that provide a growing share of finance, human capital, and other resources for global development. The GDA approach enables alliance partners - corporations, foundations, and NGOs - to bring their own assets to bear to address jointly defined development challenges, thereby achieving together a solution that would not be possible for any individual partner. This multi-stakeholder approach represents a shift in the way USAID carries out its foreign assistance mandate. With the advent of GDA, USAID welcomes companies and NGOs as equals in development projects to stimulate economic growth, develop businesses and workforces, address health and environmental issues, and expand access to education and technology.

In the 1970s, 70 percent of resource flows from the United States to the developing world were from official development assistance and 30 percent were private. Today, 85 percent of resource flows from the United States to the developing world are private and 15 percent are public. Through GDA alliances, USAID is able to tap into these private sector flows and form alliances as needs emerge. Since the devastating tsunami of December 2004, for example, the agency has formed 18 alliances with the private sector in affected countries, leveraging more than \$17 million in private sector funds from partners including Masterfoods, Chevron Corporation, Microsoft, The Coca-Cola Company, Prudential, Deutsche Bank, IBM, 3M, and ConocoPhillips.

In the health sector, early alliances include the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, or GAVI. GAVI is an alliance between the Gates Foundation, USAID, World Bank, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the pharmaceutical industry to address the lack of access to life-saving vaccines. Another example is the Global Alliance to Improve Nutrition, or GAIN. GAIN is an emerging alliance of public and private organizations - primarily USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CIDA, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, private food companies, and NGOs - working together to improve health through the elimination of vitamin and mineral deficiencies. In 2000 USAID and UNICEF worked with private stakeholders to support the Philippine government's salt iodization program. Other recent examples of GDA alliances include the Netmark

Alliance which brings together USAID and ExxonMobil resources to reduce the burden of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the Philippines, USAID has forged partnerships with the Lopez Group of Companies, the Cagayan De Oro Chamber of Commerce, and the Cavite Chamber of Commerce for the establishment of family planning programs in their companies. These three alliances will provide access to family planning information and services to around 60,000 employees in 75 companies. The development of USAID partnerships with three pharmaceutical companies and distributors, Schering, Dyna, and ECE is underway to increase access to affordable contraceptive products for Filipino women and men who need them.

In the field of maternal and child health, USAID/Philippines entered into a credit guarantee agreement with the Opportunities Microfinance Bank to provide midwives wanting to establish or expand their clinics with access to loans. This USAID/Philippines' credit guarantee mechanism for health, particularly for midwives, is a pioneering effort in USAID's experience worldwide.

In support of TB detection and treatment efforts, USAID/Philippines developed partnerships with 20 companies, NGOs and private service providers, such as Philippines Business for Social Progress, to implement private sector Tuberculosis-Directly Observed Treatment Short Course, or TB-DOTS, programs.

Finally, USAID/Philippines hopes to see public-private alliances emerge from the food industry - particularly the suppliers or millers of salt, flour, oil, sugar and rice to ensure continued supply of fortified foods in every Filipino home. USAID also seeks public-private alliances to address the emerging disease of Avian Flu.

Each of the alliances I mentioned represents a creative way of harnessing fundamental forces now shaping the development landscape; the rise of private giving and the need for cooperative solutions to the most significant development issues, such as improving the lives of women and children, the theme of today's forum. Your and our presence here today is a sign of a joint commitment to the development process. I look forward to future partnerships in the

effort to improve the lives of Filipino
women and children.

Thank you.